In the Name of Allah the Compassionate
The Most Merciful

Preface

Praise be to Allah, the Lord of All creatures, and peace and blessings of Allah be upon the leader of the pious believers, our Messenger Muhammad Son of Abdullah and upon his family and his companions.

The close observer of the descending arrangement of the Glorious Quran verses' which were revealed upon Allah's Messenger *(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)* will find a matter of utmost importance to man, whom Allah has distinguished by thought, mind, cognition and choice, we will find the first command was revealed upon Allah's Messenger *(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)* is, "Read".

Allah says:-

"Read! In the name of thy Lord and Cherisher, Who created, Created man, out of a (mere) clot of congealed blood: Read! and thy Lord is Most Bountiful, He Who taught (the use of) the Pen, Taught man that which he knew not." (Clot 1:5)

Allah's guiding directive to read is a call for man to acquire science and knowledge, to attain the laws of science related to the universe; that Allah has subjugated to man, along with knowledge of Man's path in his worldly life, to be prepared to get oneself ready for the Last Day. Eternity is either a perpetual paradise or an everlasting scorching fire as the journey of man on this earth is bounded by Allah's saying in the Star chapter:-

"That man can have nothing but what he strives for; That (the fruit of) his striving will soon come in sight; Then will he be rewarded with a reward complete; That to thy Lord is the final Goal" (Star 39:42)

This is the journey of humans on this impermanent earth, on the road to the life of eternity in the house of hereafter. From this stand, the importance of Allah's directive "**Read**" emerges since all humanity approaches in the way of advancement and progress are through science and knowledge.

Judaism and Christianity, in addition to their books the "Torah" and the "Bible" were supported by sensible materialistic miracles, e.g. the miraculous birth of Jesus *(peace be upon him)* is one example as well as all his other miracles.

Nevertheless, miracles are proofs against those who witnessed them and this is not the case for those who did not. Bearing this in mind, Judaism was revealed exclusively to the sons of Israel and Jesus was sent to the lost sheep of the house

of Israel. The Bible has stated this fact in the New Testament in the Gospel of Mathew, Book: 10:5.

"These Twelve Jesus sent forth, and charged them, saying, go not into *any* way of the Gentiles, and enter not into any city of the Samaritans: but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

All religions and Prophets of Allah preceding Islam were only meant to address specific folks and places; they were not sent to the whole world. Hence, a miracle was demonstrated for a specific folk on a specific time and place.

In spite of Allah's miracles were numerously demonstrated, most of people did not believe. Because of this, the message of Muhammad *(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)* is meant for the human heart and mind, to all peoples and nations of the world, this based on the following Quranic verse:

"We have not sent thee but as a universal (Messenger) to men, giving them glad tidings, and warning them, but most men understand not". (Saba'a: 28)

"We sent thee not, but as a mercy for all creatures". (Prophets: 107)

"Say: "O men! I am sent unto you all, as the Messenger of Allah, to Whom belongeth the dominion of the heavens and the earth: there is no Allah but He: it is He that giveth both life and death. So believe in Allah and His Messenger, the unlettered Prophet, who believed in Allah and His Words: follow him that (so) ye may be guided." (A'araf:128)

The message of Islam is represented by the miraculous Quran who speaks to the heart, mind and conscience and based on choice.

As the Messenger Muhammad *(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)* had sent messages to world's leaders of his time; such as Hercules of the Roman Empire, Negus of Abyssinia, Caesar of Persia, inviting them to read and believe as was mentioned in history references books.

We neither saw Allah's Messengers nor did we witness their miracles, therefore, how did some people become Jews now? And how did some others become Christians? And how did the others become Muslims? And now all those haven't seen messengers and haven't witnessed their miracles, those Jews, Christians and Muslims have become as they are through reading books; the Torah, the Bibles and the Glorious Quran. As reading is facilitated for all people in all languages and, thus, we can evaluate the importance of Allah's order that was revealed upon Muhammad the Messenger of Islam and to all people i.e. "Read".

"Read" reflect and choose, all the matter is left for you and your choice, the Glorious Quran says:

"Let there be no compulsion in religion: Truth stands out clear from Error: whoever rejects Evil and believes in Allah hath grasped the most trustworthy handhold that never breaks. And Allah heareth and knoweth all things". (Cow: 256)

"…nor obey any whose heart We have permitted to neglect the remembrance of Us, one who follows his own desires, whose case has gone beyond all bounds. Say, "The Truth is from your Lord": Let him who will, believe, and let him who will, reject (it)…" (The Cave: 28:29)

" (Here is) a Book which We have sent down unto thee, full of blessings, that they may meditate on its Signs, and that men of understanding may receive admonition." (Saad: 29)

Subsequently, Islam offers its doctrines to all peoples all over the world and speaks to the human mind and invites it to reason consider and choose. Whatsoever man chooses through his mind and accepts is purely his responsibility. As man is created and so is his mind, the concern of the unseen after resurrection is not in the boundaries and capacity of human mind. If this is the case, how could then man receive religion? Religion, in its essence, is related to the life of man in preparing for the Last Day, nevertheless, this is reckoned by his belief, as his behaviour is related to his beliefs he had chosen.

In view of that, if man behaves in this world through divine doctrines, the question would be: from where did he receive doctrines? What are his authentic resources that he has received his doctrines from? In essence, the mind is limited and relative, thus, there must be a supreme source that man receives this knowledge from, because the mind is limited and relative, this prerequisites delivery of religious knowledge to man from the Absolute Truth since religion is concerned with man's destiny after death and resurrection. As a result, the Absolute Truth must be known and should not be a subject to change, modification, omissions or eliminations. While the relative can not modify the Absolute, and the Absolute Truth is Allah, the Exalted and Glorified for there is no Absolute save Him.

Hence, it is a requisite that man receives the Absolute Truth from Allah, the Absolute Himself and there is no Absolute save Allah. However, when we read that Allah exalted and be glorified receives knowledge from another source (*e.g. as in Torah*), therefore, this is not The Deity. In that case, how could the Torah illustrates the Absolute Creator received knowledge from another source, where anyone would access the same knowledge from this source, would simply be knowledgeable like the Deity. The Torah mentions that Adam has successfully reached knowledge source -the tree of knowledge- in paradise and he has become knowledgeable like God, and mentions also how God fears that Adam would reach the Tree of Life and that he would forever live like Him, so God safeguarded the tree of life.

Let's read what the Torah states in the Book of Genesis, 3:22-24:

"And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil; and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the Garden of Eden the Cherubim, and the flame of a sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life."

This means that God in the Torah is scared from Adam who might be knowledgeable and everlasting like Himself. Is this a source that man might receive reliable truth? The Message of the Glorious Quran which is revealed upon Muhammad (*peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)*, speaks to the mind and seeks proofs: -

"And they say: "None shall enter Paradise unless he be a Jew or a Christian." Those are their (vain) desires. Say: "Produce your proof if ye are truthful." (Cow: 111)

Man's mind is a bridge head that receives the message, thinks, reason and acts upon its findings.

"The (material) things which ye are given are but the conveniences of this life and the glitter thereof; but that which is with Allah is better and more enduring: will ye not then be wise?" (Qasa: 60)

Because of this Allah has challenged all mankind to bring one Surah (chapter) like that is in the Quran; this challenge is still exists up to this moment, to all humanity, as Allah, the glorified and exalted says in the Cow Surah:-

"And if ye are in doubt as to what We have revealed from time to time to Our servant, then produce a Surah like thereunto; and call your witnesses or helpers (if there are any) besides Allah, if your (doubts) are true. But if ye cannot - and of a surety ye cannot - then fear the Fire whose fuel is men and stones which is prepared for those who reject Faith".(Cow:23:24)

If man abandoned his mind, then he has nullified and abandoned his existence. Allah the glorified and exalted says in the Glorious Quran:

"Many are the Jinns and men We have made for Hell: they have hearts wherewith they understand not, eyes wherewith they see not, and ears wherewith they hear not. They are like cattle, nay more misguided: for they are heedless (of warning)". (A'araf:179)

Man has abandoned the means of knowledge which Allah has bestowed upon him, so he is ordained to Hell. So Allah glorified and exalted says in the Glorious Quran:

"And pursue not that of which thou hast no knowledge; for every act of hearing, or of seeing, or of (feeling in) the heart will be enquired into (on the Day of Reckoning)." (Al-Isra'a: 36)

This means man should not follow that which he has no knowledge of. Almighty Allah has equipped us with all necessary means to access knowledge in a cognitively thorough and reasoning process. Hence, Allah the glorified and exalted says in *Tabarak Surah*, mentioning folks who have abandoned their means of knowledge, Allah describes them as the verse goes on:

"They will further say: "Had we but listened or used our intelligence, we should not (now) be among the Companions of the Blazing Fire! They will then confess their sins: but far will be (Forgiveness) from the Companions of the Blazing Fire! (Tabrak: 10-11)

Finally Allah says on the virtue of science:-

"…for Allah hath sent down to thee the Book and Wisdom and taught thee what thou knewest not (before): and great is the Grace of Allah unto thee. (Al-Nisa'a:113)

And He also says:-

"…Those truly fear Allah, among His Servants, who have knowledge: for Allah is Exalted in Might, Oft-Forgiving. (Fater: 28)

"O my Lord! advance me in knowledge." (Taha: 114)

"Know, therefore, that there is no God but Allah,…" (Muhammad: 19)

These were but quick and simple illustrations of the divine order *"Read"*. Thus, do learn, know and choose for your fate is your choice.